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20 MAR 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Deputy Director (Research)

SUBJECT : Status of U-2 Generators

1. As of 19 March 1963, two successful test flights totaling 14 hours, 28 minutes have been completed by LAC with one of the newly modified generators. One successful test flight of 7 hours has also been completed by AFSC at Edwards Air Force Base.

2. Each generator was thoroughly examined after each flight. Brush wear was measured and determined to be normal. Bearing temperatures were cool throughout the flights and showed no signs of grease seepage at the seals. The protective coating on the commutators was normal.

3. A third test flight with the first generator is being flown by LAC on 20 March. At the end of this flight, total time on the generator will be 20 hours. LAC will then remove the generator and perform another detailed inspection of the bearings, brushes, commutator, and quill shaft. If the inspection is satisfactory, they will certify the generator for operational use. However, they intend to continue accumulating flight time on this generator for further testing and analysis.

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4. Three generators are being couriered to [redacted] for installation on Articles 342 and 355. The courier departed Travis Air Force Base at 0015 hours, 20 March. After the generators are installed, one 2-hour test flight and one 8-hour training flight will be flown. Bearing temperatures and electrical loads will be monitored throughout the flight. The generators will be carefully inspected after each flight and if their condition is normal, the aircraft will be declared operationally ready. Anticipated operationally ready date is 26 March 1963.

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Chief, Materiel Division  
OSA-DD/R

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